

A MYTH GOOD FOR A MILE

LEONARD R. N. ASHLEY
Brooklyn, New York

The American poet Hart Crane (1899 - 1932) sang of "that great Bridge, our Myth," but it is another kind of myth that bridges the cultures of ancient Greece and Rome and our own. See how many common English words you can identify that are derived from Greek myth in the quiz below. Answers can be found in Answers and Solutions at the end of this issue.

1. A word for tranquil or unruffled, derived from the belief in a sea bird that hatched its young in a floating nest during the solstice calm
2. A monster, half woman, half serpent, who sucked the blood of children
3. A person of great size or strength, from the race of giants which overthrew Uranus
4. Airtight, from a thrice-powerful Greek god
5. Tease, after a son of Zeus who was tortured repeatedly
6. A foolish fancy, after a monster supposed to have a lion's head, a goat's body, and a serpent's tail
7. Man's uncontrollable sexual desire, after a woodland deity
8. A repetition, from a nymph who pined away for Narcissus
9. Cupbearer, after a favorite of Zeus
10. Waitress, after another cupbearer of Olympus
11. Self-love, after a man who was entranced by his reflection in a pool
12. Dual-sexed, after the offspring of those the Romans later called Venus and Mercury
13. A frightening monster, from the Greek for terrible
14. A three-toothed spear, from the son of Poseidon and Amphitrite
15. A nagging woman, from the Greek for snatcher
16. Retribution, from the goddess of vengeance
17. Flower, supposedly sprung from the blood of a doomed youth
18. A triple plumbing connection, from an infernal dog
19. A jellyfish, after a gorgon with wild hair
20. A container for decanters, after a son of Zeus
21. A book of maps, after a strong person
22. A rich man, after an underworld character
23. A vast expanse of water, after the oldest of the Titans
24. A powerful woman, after a supposed tribe of one-breasted women
25. Drink, from the Greek for death-defeating
26. A water connection, from a many-headed serpent
27. A watch, from a chief god
28. To browbeat, from an ancient hero
29. An advisor, from an ancient friend of Ulysses